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LETTER DATED 6 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit a copy of a letter from Prof. Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland, regarding the latest developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

May I request that you arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zbigniew M. WLOSOWICZ
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 2 June 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Poland addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of Poland and Polish public opinion are deeply concerned by the development of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the request of the Security Council, Poland, as well as a number of other States, has sent its officers and soldiers to the United Nations peace-keeping mission in the former Yugoslavia. We believed then that they would reverse the tragic developments in the area and assist in fulfilling this noble and greatly needed role envisaged for the United Nations.

Recent events prove, however, that the efficiency of the United Nations peace-keeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina turns out to be considerably limited. The Bosnian Serbs' leaders show total disrespect for both the decisions and appeals of the Security Council as well as for the activities of United Nations observers and troops. They have even gone so far as to brutally take hostage almost 400 United Nations officers and soldiers, including 2 senior Polish officers from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), using them, among others, as "human shields". The direct threat to lives caused by these unlawful acts provokes our protest and deep indignation.

It is necessary in this respect to undertake actions to restore the efficiency of the Blue Helmets' mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and provide appropriate protection for the lives and health of UNPROFOR members. The responsibility for this rests with the United Nations. First of all humanitarian reasons speak in favour of taking urgent steps by the Security Council so as to guarantee the return of persons detained by the Bosnian Serb forces to the unhindered conduct of their mission, thus calming public outrage and the concerns of their families.

The participation of the Polish armed forces in the United Nations peace-keeping operations and other international actions for the sake of restoration of peace in the world has been from the outset, that is, since 1953, the object of pride and admiration on the part of the Polish people.

The Government of the Republic of Poland fully supports the United Nations Security Council in its efforts aimed at restoring peace on the Balkan peninsula and counts on more effective actions to be taken in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations. Poland will not cease its efforts to support the Security Council in fulfilling its basic function, maintaining international peace and security.

(Signed) Wladyslaw BARTOSZEWSKI